exhibition made a positive contribution in strengthening and expansion of trade ties between India and Afghanistan.

**Demand to sign CTBT and NPT**

3028. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Canada has urged Government to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has offered to mediate between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether Canada would like to assist India in exploiting nuclear energy for commercial purposes by opening the vast North American market; and

(c) if so, Government views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Canadian Government takes upon itself to urge all countries, including India, to become party to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Canada has not offered to mediate between India and Pakistan.

(b) No.

(c) Government's well-known stand is that India cannot accede to the NPT which is a discriminatory treaty. India will not stand in the way of entry into force of CTBT and remains committed to the endeavour of evolving a national consensus in support of accession to this Treaty.

**Triangle of India-Iran-Afghanistan**

†3029. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to form a triangle of India-Iran-Afghanistan to boost trade with Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the progress made in this directions so far; and

(d) what other steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken by Government to promote trade relations with Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Government is in touch with other countries in the region, including Iran and Afghanistan, and is developing projects to improve links, including ports, roads and other infrastructure, so as to facilitate more efficient movement of goods to Afghanistan, both as a part of reconstruction assistance and commercial transactions.

(d) Government had facilitated the organization of 'Made in India' show in Kabul in September this year by the Confederation of Indian Industries. The exhibition introduced the Indian capabilities in the field of commerce and industry to the Afghan people and business community, as is also being done by the Government's assistance programme for Afghan reconstruction. Officials of the two countries are also working on finalization of a Preferential Trading Agreement.

**Implementation of projects**

†3030. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has recommended to implement 150 projects out of 300 projects running with the central assistance and 495 projects out of 1400 projects of the Ministries during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects left out and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) According to the Planning Commission, no such recommendation has been made. The Planning Commission has, however, undertaken a review of the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes and subjected them to Zero-based budgeting. It is proposed to retain only such Schemes in the Tenth Five-Year Plan as are demonstrably essential.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.